
DC Fire & EMS Patient Care Policies: Helicopter Transports



Note Well: *The decision to request a helicopter for scene transportation of a patient is a significant one and should not be taken lightly. The benefits to the patients should clearly outweigh the risks imposed on the aircrew. Helicopter transport is warranted only when the clinical outcome of an unstable patient would be positively affected.*

I. Request for an Air Helicopter Ambulance (Medivac)

1. The senior care provider on the scene will request a helicopter and further request an engine company's response, if one is not already on scene through communications.
2. Indicate a safe landing zone, taking into account crowds, trees, electrical, telephone and cable lines.
3. Request an E.T.A. of the helicopter.

II. Patients Eligible for Air Medivac

1. Priority 1 (unstable) patients with significant mechanism of injury whose transport would
 - A. Reduce the time to definitive care.
 - B. Increase the likelihood of improved clinical outcome.



Note Well: *Patients that present with a tension pneumothorax must have needle decompression performed prior to transport in any type of aircraft.*

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III. Patients Excluded from Air Medivac

1. Patients in cardiopulmonary arrest.



Note Well: *Pregnant females in cardiac arrest may be considered for Medivac in an attempt to save the life of the fetus.*

2. Any patient who has been contaminated by hazardous or unknown materials that could affect the safe operations of the aircraft or crew.
3. Patients who are violent or uncontrollable, posing a risk to the aircraft and crew.

IV. Special Considerations

1. Weather conditions.
2. Traffic and road conditions.
3. Multiple or Mass Casualty Incidents.